

Sources of Colorado Law

This guide provides entry points into primary and secondary sources of Colorado law. For question or tips on using any of these resources, please reach out to Nick Harrell (nick_harrell@ca10.uscourts.gov) or the library generally (library@ca10.uscourts.gov).

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STATUTES

The compiled statutes of Colorado are found in the Colorado Revised Statutes (“CRS”).

Print:

Colorado Revised Statutes:

The official version of the CRS is published in print by Lexis. Beyond the official text of the statutes, the CRS includes some annotations. The CRS is currently published annually and has a red cover.

Location:

- Current: Denver (State Statutes), Oklahoma City (KFC 1829)
- Prior Years: Denver (Superseded Statutes Room)

Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated:

West publishes the Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated (“CRSA”), which contains more annotations than the CRS and is updated more frequently with pocket parts. The CRSA has a blue cover

Location:

- Current: Denver (State Statutes)
- Prior Years: Denver (Superseded Statutes Room)

Online:

Current but unofficial versions of the CRS are publicly available online. The Committee on Legal Services of the Colorado General Assembly has arranged for the CRS to be hosted by Lexis, but does not require a login or subscription. You can access the Lexis version (with some annotations) and downloadable PDFs (without annotations) from the link below.

Location:

- [Colorado Revised Statutes](#)

Westlaw:

The CRS is available on Westlaw. The annotations found in the print edition may be found from the “Context & Analysis” tab on Westlaw.

Location:

- Current: [Colorado Statutes & Court Rules](#) (Login Required)
- Prior Years: [Colorado Statutes Annotated – Historical](#) (1989-2017) (Login Required)

Lexis Advance:

The unofficial CRS is available on Lexis Advance. The annotations found in the print edition may be found from scrolling down to the “Annotations” on Lexis Advance.

Location:

- Current: [Colorado Revised Statutes](#) (Login Required)
- Prior Years: [Archived Codes](#) (1991-2017) (select “Colorado” from the “Jurisdiction” menu) (Login Required)

Bloomberg Law:

A current, unofficial copy of the CRS is also available via Bloomberg Law.

Location:

- [Colorado Revised Statutes](#) (Login Required)

HeinOnline:

HeinOnline includes PDFs of official versions of the CRS from 1963 and earlier, the Revised Statutes of Colorado, and other older statutes.

Location:

- [State Statutes: A Historical Archive – Colorado](#) (IP Authenticated)

LLMC:

Before the CRS, the Colorado Annotated Statutes by Mills contained the laws in force at the time. Other codifications pre-dated the CRS; see HeinOnline above for more examples

- [Colorado Annotated Stats. \(Mills’\)](#) (1912) (IP Authenticated)

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SESSION LAWS

The chronologically enacted laws of Colorado are found in the Colorado Session Laws.

Print:

Colorado Session Laws:

These volumes contain the laws, concurrent resolutions, and selected resolutions and memorials passed in a given legislative session.

Location:

- Current-1864: Denver (State Statutes)
 - Missing two volumes before 1864

Online:

PDF versions of the Colorado Session Laws are available from two CO institutions. The Colorado General Assembly publishes the current session laws on its website along with an archive going back until 1993. The University of Colorado Law Library complements that collection by providing session laws from 1861 through 1992

Location:

- [Colorado General Assembly: Session Laws Archive](#) (1993-Current)
- [University of Colorado: Colorado Session Laws](#) (1861-1992)

Westlaw:

Westlaw provides access to session laws from 1989 through the current legislative session.

Location:

- Current: [Colorado Enacted Legislation](#) (Current) (Login Required)
- Historical: [Colorado Historical Enacted Legislation](#) (1989-2017) (Login Required)

Lexis Advance:

Lexis Advance provides access to the session laws enacted during the current legislative session.

Location:

- [Colorado Advance Legislative Service](#) (Login Required) (Current)

Bloomberg Law:

Bloomberg Law provides access to Colorado Session Laws from 1993 to the current session.

Location:

- [Colorado Session Laws](#) (Login Required) (1993-Current)

HeinOnline:

HeinOnline provides access to the full run of the Colorado Session Laws in PDF format.

Location:

- [Session Laws Library: Colorado](#) (IP Authenticated) (1861-Current)

LLMC:

LLMC provides access to the Colorado Session Laws in PDF format from 1891 to 1987

Location:

- [Colorado Session Laws](#)

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Legislative History Materials

Fewer legislative materials exist for Colorado legislative history research than do for Federal legislative history research. To that end, accessing legislative documents from before the 1990s often requires a trip to the Colorado archives. For more detailed steps on conducting Colorado legislative history research, see Colorado Legal Research by Robert Linz available in the Denver Library at KFC 1875.L56.

Colorado House & Senate Journals:

The Colorado House & Senate Journals document the proceedings of the Colorado General Assembly, including notes of legislation passage, vote counts, and committee reports.

Location:

- Publicly Available:
 - Current:
 - [House: Session Publications](#)
 - [Senate: Session Publications](#)
 - 2016-2017:
 - [House Session End Documents](#)
 - [Senate Session End Documents](#)
 - 1997-2015: [2015 and Prior Legislative Session Information](#)
- LLMC: (IP Authenticated)
 - 1879-1991:
 - [Colorado House Journals](#)
 - [Colorado Senate Journals](#)

Colorado Committee Reports:

Various reports and information from Colorado House and Senate Committees are available online.

Location:

- Current: [Colorado General Assembly: Committees](#) (2016-Current)
 - Be sure to scroll down on a particular committee's page for report information.
- Prior: [2015 and Prior Legislative Session Information](#) (2000-2015)
- Westlaw: [Colorado Legislative History](#) (2005-Current) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance: [Colorado Legislative Bill History](#) (2002- Current) (Login Required)

Colorado Bills:

Bills from the Colorado Assembly are also available online.

Location:

- Current: [Colorado General Assembly: Bills](#) (2016-Current)
- Prior: [2015 and Prior Legislative Session Information](#) (1997-2015)
- Westlaw:
 - Current: [Colorado Proposed Legislation](#) (Current Session Only) (Login Required)
 - Prior: [Colorado Historical Proposed Legislation \(Bills\)](#) (2005-2017) (Login Required)
 - Colorado Bill Tracking: [Colorado Bill Tracking](#) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance:
 - [CO Full-Text Bills](#) (1991-Current) (Login Required)
 - [CO Bill Tracking](#) (Login Required)

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Administrative Law

The codified regulations of Colorado appear in the Code of Colorado Regulations (“CCR”). The CCR is updated with new regulations by the Colorado Register (“CR”)

Code of Colorado Regulations:

The official CCR is found online at the Colorado Secretary of State’s website. Print, Westlaw, and Lexis Advance versions are also available.

Location:

- Official: [Code of Colorado Regulations](#) (Current)
- Print: Denver (State Statutes) (Current)
- Westlaw:
 - Current: [Colorado Regulations](#) (Current) (Login Required)
 - Prior: [Colorado Historical Regulations](#) (2002-2017) (Login Required)
 - [Colorado Proposed & Adopted Regulations](#) (Current) (Login Required)
 - [Colorado Proposed & Adopted Regulations](#) (2006-Current) (Login Required)
 - [Colorado Regulation Tracking](#) (Login Required)
- Lexis:
 - Current: [Colorado Code of Regulations](#) (Current) (Login Required)
 - Prior: [Administrative Codes](#) (2004-2017) (select “Colorado” from the “Jurisdiction” menu) (Login Required)
 - [CO State Regulation Tracking](#) (Login Required)

Colorado Register:

The Colorado Register is the chronological publication of proposed and final administrative regulations.

Location:

- Official: [Colorado Register](#) (2006-Current)
- Print: Denver (State Statutes)

Colorado Attorney General Opinions:

The Colorado Attorney General provides formal opinions on question of law.

Location:

- Online: [Formal AG Opinions](#) (2001-Current)

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Case Law

Pacific Reporter:

The Pacific Reporter includes published state court cases from Colorado and other western state cases.

Location:

- Print: Denver
- Westlaw: Users can view the reported of a case by clicking the PDF icon in the upper-left-hand of the cases. (Login Required)

Subscription Databases:

Most often researchers will find and access cases on one of our research platforms.

Location:

- Westlaw: [Colorado State Cases](#) (Login Required)
 - [Colorado Supreme Court Cases](#) (Login Required)
 - [Colorado Court of Appeals Cases](#) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance: [All Colorado State Cases, Combined](#) (Login Required)
 - [CO Supreme Court Cases from 1864](#) (Login Required)
 - [CO Court of Appeals Cases from 1891](#) (Login Required)
- Bloomberg Law: [Colorado State Cases](#) (Login Required)
- Google Scholar: [Google Scholar](#)

Colorado and Pacific Digest:

Digests provide summaries of cases and an organizational structure that enables users to find cases by subject and legal issue.

Location:

- Print: Colorado and Pacific Digests (State Digests)
- LLMC: [Colorado Cases Digest, Morrison](#) (1891) (IP Authenticated)
- Westlaw: the digest system is incorporated through Westlaw's Keynumber and Headnote system (Login Required)

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Court Rules

Colorado Court Rules can be found in print and online.

Colorado Court Rules

Location:

- Print: Colorado Court Rules, State: Denver (KFC 2329.A192); Oklahoma City (KFC 2329.A192); Tulsa (KFC 2329.A192)
 - Older copies available in Superseded Statutes room
- Westlaw: [West's Colorado Court Rules Annotated](#) (Current) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance: [Colorado Court Rules](#) (Current) (Login Required)
- Publicly Available Online: [Colorado – Local, State and Federal Court Rules](#)

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Jury Instructions

Colorado Jury Instructions – Civil

The Colorado civil jury instructions are prepared by the Colorado Supreme Court Committee on Civil Jury Instructions.

Location:

- Print:
- Westlaw: [Colorado Jury Instructions-Civil](#) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance: [Colorado Jury Instructions for Civil Trials](#) (Login Required)

Colorado Jury Instructions – Criminal

The Colorado criminal jury instructions are prepared by the Colorado Supreme Court Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions.

Location:

- Print:
- Westlaw: [Colorado Jury Instructions-Criminal](#) (Login Required)
- Lexis Advance: [Colorado Jury Instructions, Criminal](#) (Login Required)

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Legal Periodicals

Legal News

Colorado Lawyer

The Colorado Lawyer is the monthly publication of the Colorado Bar Association

Location:

- Print: Denver (Law Reviews) (1971-Current)
- Online: [HeinOnline: Colorado Lawyer](#) (1971-Current)
- Westlaw: [Colorado Lawyer](#) (1983-Current) (Login Required)

Law Week Colorado

Law Week Colorado is a weekly newspaper for Coloradan lawyers.

Location:

- Print: Denver (Current Six Months)

Law Reviews & Journals

The following law reviews and journals are available in print in the library, online, [Westlaw](#), [Lexis Advance](#), and on [HeinOnline](#).

- University of Colorado Law Review
- Denver University Law Review
- Colorado Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law
- Colorado Technology Law Journal
- Denver Journal of International Law & Policy
- Transportation Law Journal
- University of Denver Criminal Law Review
- University of Denver Sports & Entertainment Law Journal
- University of Denver Water Law Review

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Additional Online Resources

[Colorado General Assembly](#)

[Colorado Legislative Council](#)

[Office of Legislative Legal Services](#)

[Colorado State Archives](#)

[Colorado Joint Legislative Library](#)

[Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute](#): Colorado Legal Materials

[Findlaw](#): Colorado Courts

[Justia](#): Colorado Law

[Library of Congress](#) Guide to Colorado Law

[CO Legislative History from the University of Denver Law Library](#)

[CO Legislative Council Research Publications](#)

[CO Statutes and Legislative Information](#)

[Legal Research Corner Articles from The Colorado Lawyer](#)

[Researching Colorado Local Government Law](#)

[Researching Colorado Statutes](#)

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Law Libraries

University of Colorado, William A. Wise Law Library

Location:

- [William A. Wise Law Library](#)

University of Denver, Westminster Law Library

Location:

- [Westminster Law Library](#)

Colorado Supreme Court Law Library

Location:

- [Colorado Supreme Court Library](#)

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